

**DELAWARE COMMISSION OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2008**

Members Present: Ennis, Lardizzzone, Carroll, Evans, Harden, Kitson, Lank, Newstadt, Smith, Timberman and Wasson

Members Excused: Corsa, Spitzfaden and Thompson

Staff Present: Davila

Guests: Rich Magner (MOPH), Bill McMullen (AF Sergeants Association), David Rich (Department of Labor)

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to our Nations Flag.

Chairman Ennis announced that he attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the Vietnam Veterans memorial at the Kent County Levy Court building. He also attended the returning ceremony for the 153rd Police Squadron from Iraq.

**MOTION BY WASSON TO ACCEPT MAY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES,
SECONDED BY KITSON, MOTION CARRIED.**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMEMORATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Ennis reported that they are still working on obtaining a guest speaker for the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11, 2008, at the Delaware Memorial Bridge. Commissioner Lank commended the VFW for the Flag Day Ceremony held at the Southern Cemetery and the staff at the Veterans Home for the ceremony they held. Commissioner Carroll commented on how well the grounds at the Delaware Memorial Bridge looked on Memorial Day and what great work had been done on the ramp for the speaker. Mr. Davila announced that they presented an award to Lee McGaughan (Delaware River & Bay Authority) at his retirement ceremony for his participation with the Commission and bridge activities.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Commissioner Carroll reported on issues discussed at the Veterans Home Meeting and the Friends of the Veterans Home. Chairman Ennis provided the balances in the Veterans Home Fund at \$102,300.12 and the Friends of the Veterans Home Fund at \$494,615.59. The meetings for the Veterans Home Advisory Committee are held on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 PM at the Home and everyone is invited. Mr. Davila discussed how veterans would be accepted into the Home after it has become full.

Mr. Rich discussed the Veterans' Employment & Training program.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

Chairman Ennis commented that he would work on legislation so that members of the Delaware National Guard or Reserve, with 20 years or more, could be eligible for the Veterans Home (legislation similar to the Veterans Cemetery). Commissioner Carroll announced that the legislation for the Purple Heart Trail through Delaware has passed the House and is currently in the Senate.

ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS

Smith (AMVETS) – Discussed the recent AMVETS department elections. The National Convention is scheduled for August 2-9, 2008, in Orlando, FL.

Carroll (MOPH) – They recently had two WWII members pass away. He shared his opinion concerning local monuments. Discussion followed in reference to having a local monument for all veterans.

MOTION BY CARROLL FOR THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP, THROUGH SUGGESTIONS FROM THEIR ORGANIZATIONS, FUTURE PLANS FOR A VETERANS MONUMENT THAT REPRESENTS ALL VETERANS, SECONDED BY HARDEN, MOTION CARRIED.

Ennis (KWVA) – They will have their Executive Department meeting on Thursday, June 19, 2008, at American Legion Post #2. Their annual picnic is scheduled for September 13, 2008, at Brecknock Park, Dover.

Lardizzone (DAV) – He will be attending the New York State Convention and visiting the National Purple Heart Museum. The DAV Department of Delaware Convention is scheduled for June 27-28, 2008. He also attended the book signing at the Veterans Home.

Harden (WAVES) – She attended the Friends of the Veterans Home meeting and the Veterans Home Advisory meeting on June 4, 2008. WAVES Unit 10 will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary on Saturday, June 21, 2008.

Kitson (VFW) – Their State Convention was held June 6-8, 2008; they elected new officers. They have a Flying Squadron meeting on July 19-20, 2008, in New Jersey and School of Instruction on July 26, 2008, in Dover. The National Convention will be held August 16-21, 2008, in Orlando, FL.

Newstadt (JWV) – Reported on the Memorial Day Ceremony at the Northern Cemetery and provided a Cemetery update. He also attended the 153rd Police Squadron return ceremony. He was a guest speaker at an American Legion luncheon in New Castle County.

Evans (American Legion) – Their State Convention will be held July 11-13, 2008. On June 25, 2008, 10:00 AM, District IV will present a framed 1890s flag to the Veterans Home.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD AND WELFARE OF THE ORGANIZATION

Mr. Smith announced that the Tuskegee Airmen will be having their annual picnic on July 12, 2008, at Dover AFB. The Tuskegee Airmen National Convention will be held at the Convention Center in Philadelphia, PA, July 17-20, 2008.

Mr. McMullen announced that the Professional Airmen's Conference is scheduled for June 23-27, 2008, in San Antonio, TX.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: **July 22, 2008 (10:00 AM)**

LOCATION: **Robbins Bldg, 802 Silver Lake Blvd, Suite 100
Dover, DE**

ADJOURNED